



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 815

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1137

Senate, May 12, 2015

The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through SEN. FONFARA of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) There is established a
- 2 Connecticut Competitiveness Council, which shall be part of the
- 3 Legislative Department.
- 4 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:
- 5 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 6 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 7 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
- 8 Representatives;
- 9 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 10 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of

11 Representatives;

12 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and

13 (7) Two appointed by the Governor.

14 (c) Any member of the council appointed under subdivision (1), (2),
15 (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of
16 the General Assembly.

17 (d) All initial appointments to the council shall be made not later
18 than October 1, 2015. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
19 authority.

20 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
21 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the council
22 from among the members of the council. Such chairpersons shall
23 schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later
24 than sixty days after October 1, 2015.

25 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
26 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance,
27 revenue and bonding shall serve as administrative staff of the council.

28 (g) Appointed members of the council shall serve for four-year
29 terms which shall commence October 1, 2015, except that members
30 first appointed shall have the following terms: Members initially
31 appointed by the Governor and members appointed by the majority
32 leader of the House of Representatives and the minority leader of the
33 House of Representatives shall serve a term of two years, and
34 members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
35 the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader of the
36 Senate and the minority leader of the Senate shall initially serve a term
37 of four years. The appointing authority shall fill any vacancy by
38 appointment for the unexpired portion of the term vacated.

39 (h) A majority of the council shall constitute a quorum for the
40 transaction of any business.

41 (i) The members of the council shall serve without compensation,
42 except for necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties.

43 (j) The council shall have the following powers and duties: (1)
44 Encourage and assist private sector business growth in this state and
45 evaluate and promote economic competitiveness as compared to other
46 jurisdictions; (2) not later than January 31, 2017, and annually
47 thereafter, develop a Connecticut Competitiveness Scorecard to
48 provide a comprehensive statistical assessment of Connecticut's
49 economic competitiveness performance; (3) outline the primary
50 challenges to Connecticut's economic competitiveness and policy
51 responses required to meet those challenges; (4) advise and assist the
52 executive and legislative departments and the private sector on
53 matters relating to economic competitiveness; (5) obtain from any
54 executive department, board, commission or other agency of the state
55 such assistance and data as necessary and available to carry out the
56 purposes of this section; (6) accept any gift, donation or bequest for the
57 purpose of performing the duties described in this section; and (7)
58 perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry
59 out the duties described in this section.

60 (k) The council shall meet at least quarterly.

61 (l) Not later than January 31, 2017, and annually thereafter, the
62 council shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
63 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor, the
64 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the
65 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
66 of matters relating to labor, commerce and finance, revenue and
67 bonding on the competitiveness of the state's industry and economy
68 which shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) the Connecticut
69 Competitiveness Scorecard described in subdivision (2) of subsection
70 (j) of this section, (2) the outline of primary challenges to Connecticut's
71 economic competitiveness and policy responses required to meet those
72 challenges described in subdivision (3) of subsection (j) of this section,
73 and (3) recommendations for policy changes and amendments to the

74 general statutes necessary to promote economic competitiveness.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2015	New section
-----------	--------------	-------------

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b)(7), "persons" was deleted for consistency, and in Section 1(e), "the effective date of this section" was changed to "October 1, 2015" for consistency.

FIN *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	Less than \$1,000	Less than \$1,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None**Explanation**

The bill establishes a Connecticut Competitiveness Council within the legislative branch. There may be a cost of less than \$1,000 in FY 16 and in FY 17 to to reimburse legislators and agency staff for mileage expenses.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1137*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a 10-member council within the legislative branch to advise the governor, legislators, and businesses about Connecticut's economic performance, including how it compares with that of other jurisdictions. Legislative leaders and the governor must appoint the members by October 1, 2015. The House speaker and the Senate president pro tempore must appoint the council's chairpersons, who must hold the council's first meeting by December 1, 2015. The council must meet at least once each quarter.

Beginning by January 31, 2017, the council must submit an annual report to the governor, the economic and community development commissioner, and several legislative committees on the state's economic competitiveness and how to improve it. When preparing the report, the council may obtain necessary and available information from any state agency, board, or commission.

By law, the commissioner must prepare a four-year economic development strategic plan that, among other things, reviews and analyzes the forces affecting the state's economic development and responsible growth (CGS § 32-1o; see BACKGROUND).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

COMPOSITION***Appointments and Terms***

Two council members are appointed by the governor; eight are appointed by legislative leaders, who may appoint legislators (see

Table 1).

Table 1: Council Appointments

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Number of Appointments</i>
Governor	2
House Speaker	2
President Pro Tempore	2
House Majority Leader	1
Senate Majority Leader	1
House Minority Leader	1
Senate Minority Leader	1

The appointing authorities must make their initial appointments by October 1, 2015. These initial members serve staggered terms:

1. those appointed by the governor and the House majority and minority leaders serve two-year terms and
2. those appointed by the House speaker, Senate president pro tempore, and the Senate majority and minority leaders serve four-year terms.

Subsequently appointed members serve four-year terms. An appointing authority must fill any vacancy for the unexpired portion of the vacant member's term.

ADMINISTRATION

The council's chairpersons must call the first meeting by December 1, 2015. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum for transacting business. The council must meet at least once every quarter. The members must serve without compensation except for necessary expenses incurred while performing their duties. The Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee's administrative staff must also serve as the council's administrative staff.

POWERS AND DUTIES

The council's powers and duties center on quantifying Connecticut's economic competitiveness and recommending ways to improve it. The council must:

1. encourage and assist businesses to grow in Connecticut;
2. evaluate and promote Connecticut's economic competitiveness vis-à-vis other jurisdictions;
3. beginning no later than January 1, 2017, prepare an annual statistical assessment of the state's economic performance (Connecticut Competitiveness Scorecard);
4. outline the primary challenges facing Connecticut's economic competitiveness and the policies needed to meet those challenges; and
5. advise and assist the executive and legislative branches and the private sector regarding the state's economic competitiveness.

To perform its duties, the council can:

1. obtain assistance and information available from any state entity;
2. accept gifts, donations, or bequests; and
3. take any necessary and appropriate actions.

ANNUAL REPORT

The council must annually submit a report on the competitiveness of the state's industry and economy. It must submit the report to the governor; economic and community development commissioner; and Commerce, Labor, and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees. The first report is due January 31, 2017.

At a minimum, each annual report must:

1. include the Connecticut Competitiveness Scorecard,

2. outline the primary challenges facing the state's economic competitiveness and the policies needed to meet those challenges, and
3. recommend policy and statutory changes needed to promote the state's competitiveness.

BACKGROUND

Four-Year State Economic Development Strategic Plan

Beginning July 1, 2015, the economic and community development commissioner must prepare a four-year strategic economic development strategic plan that, among other things, must:

1. review and evaluate the state's labor market;
2. review and analyze the extent to which the state's infrastructure, education systems, regulatory structure, health care delivery and costs, and affordable housing supply affect the state's economic growth; and
3. specify clear and measureable economic development goals and objectives for the state and its regions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 49 Nay 0 (04/30/2015)